

Steelhead Stock Status British Columbia

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Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Pacific Coast Steelhead Management Meeting
December 9, 2025

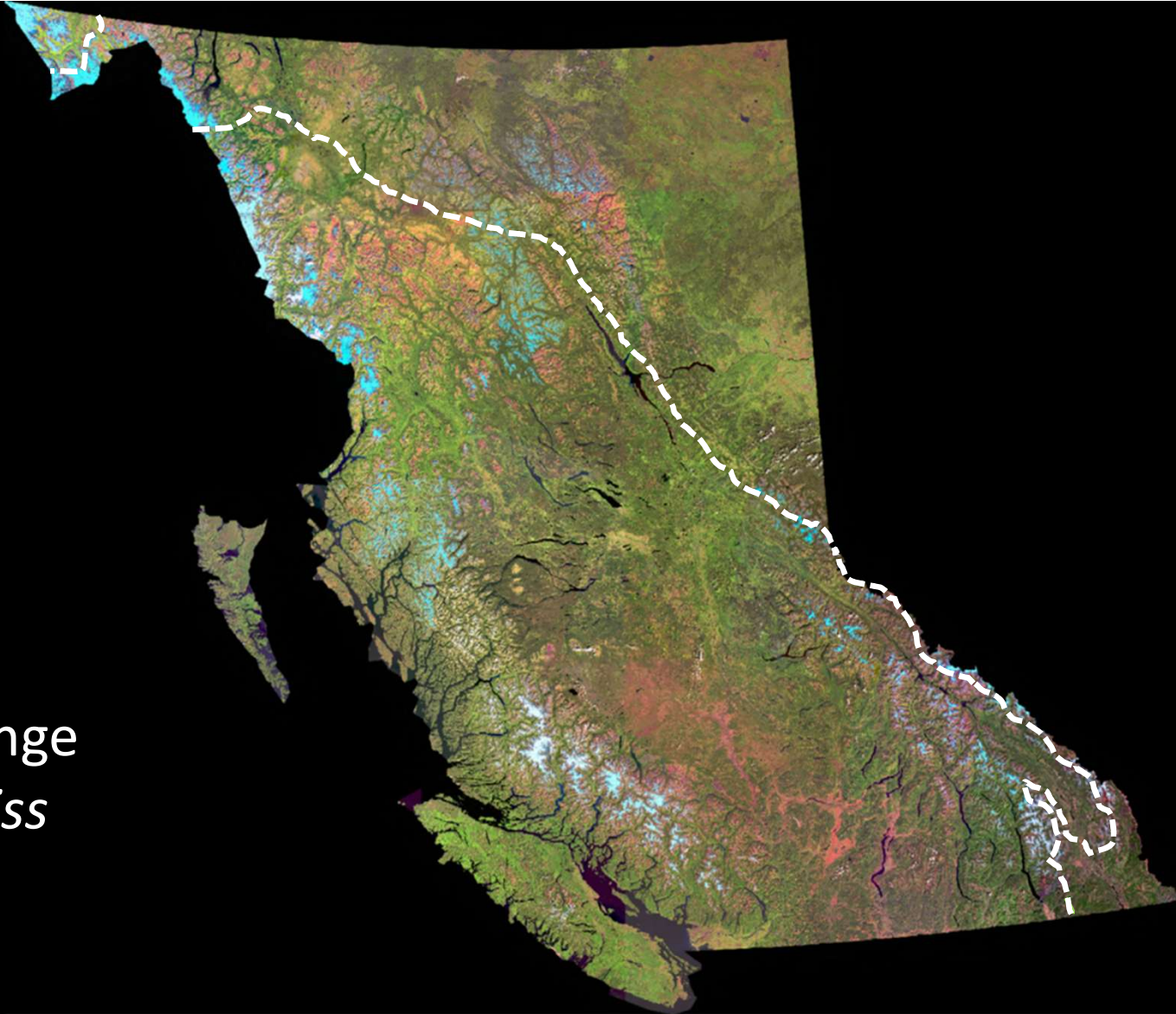


Outline

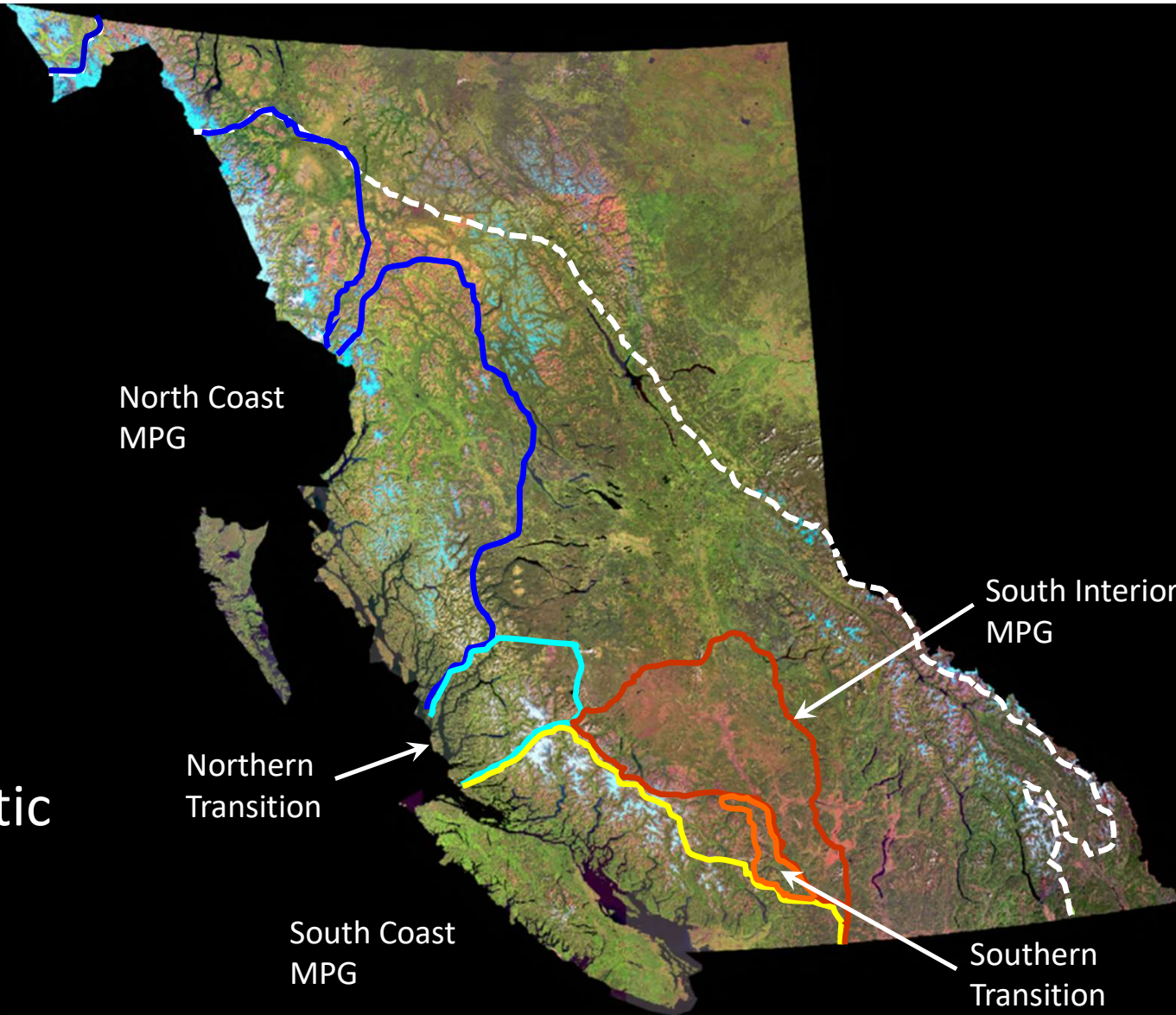
- Geographic Distribution
- Southern BC
 - Sport fishery statistics
 - Fishery independent abundance monitoring
- Northern BC
 - Sport fishery statistics
 - Fishery independent monitoring
- Summary of Abundance Status

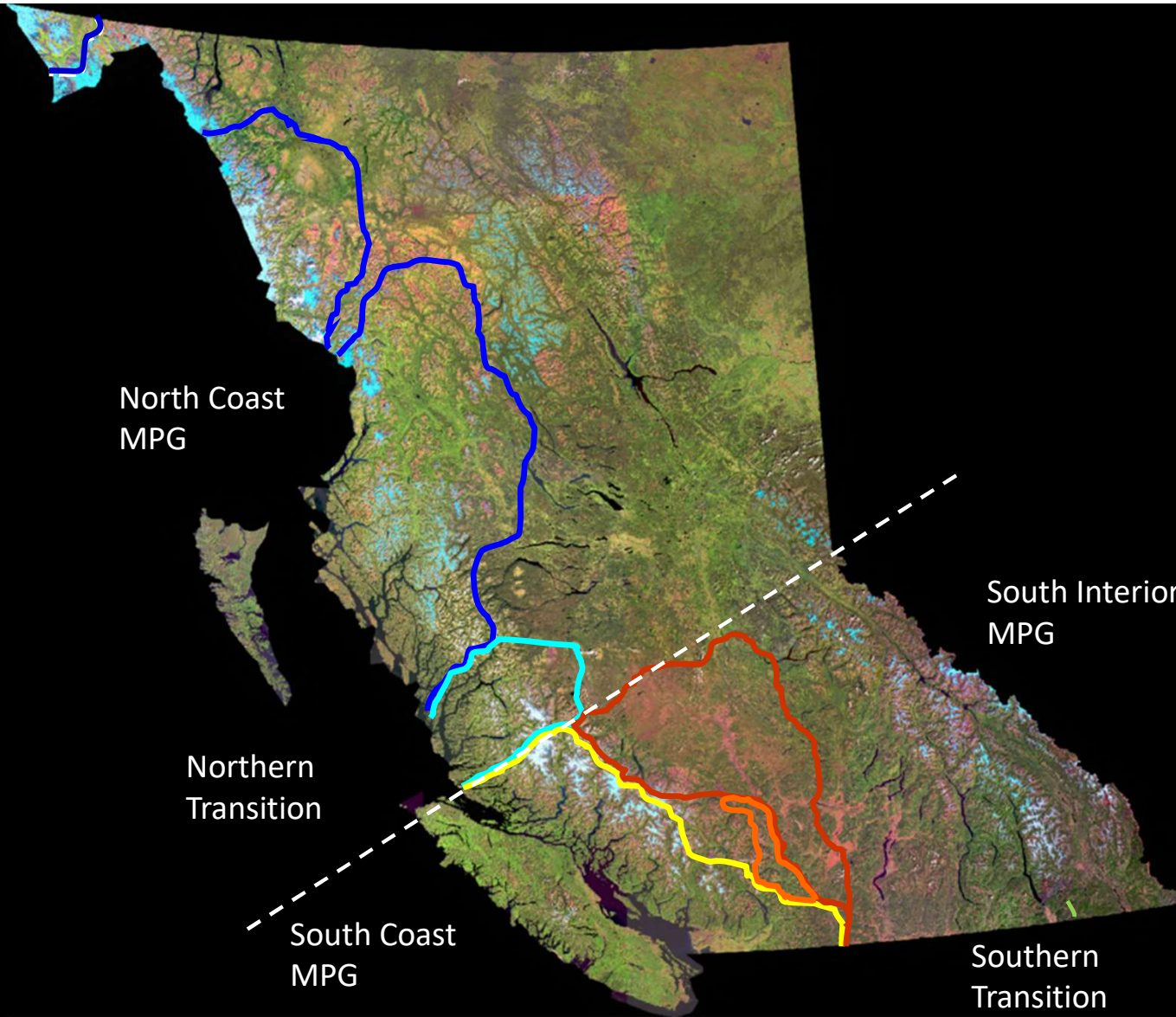


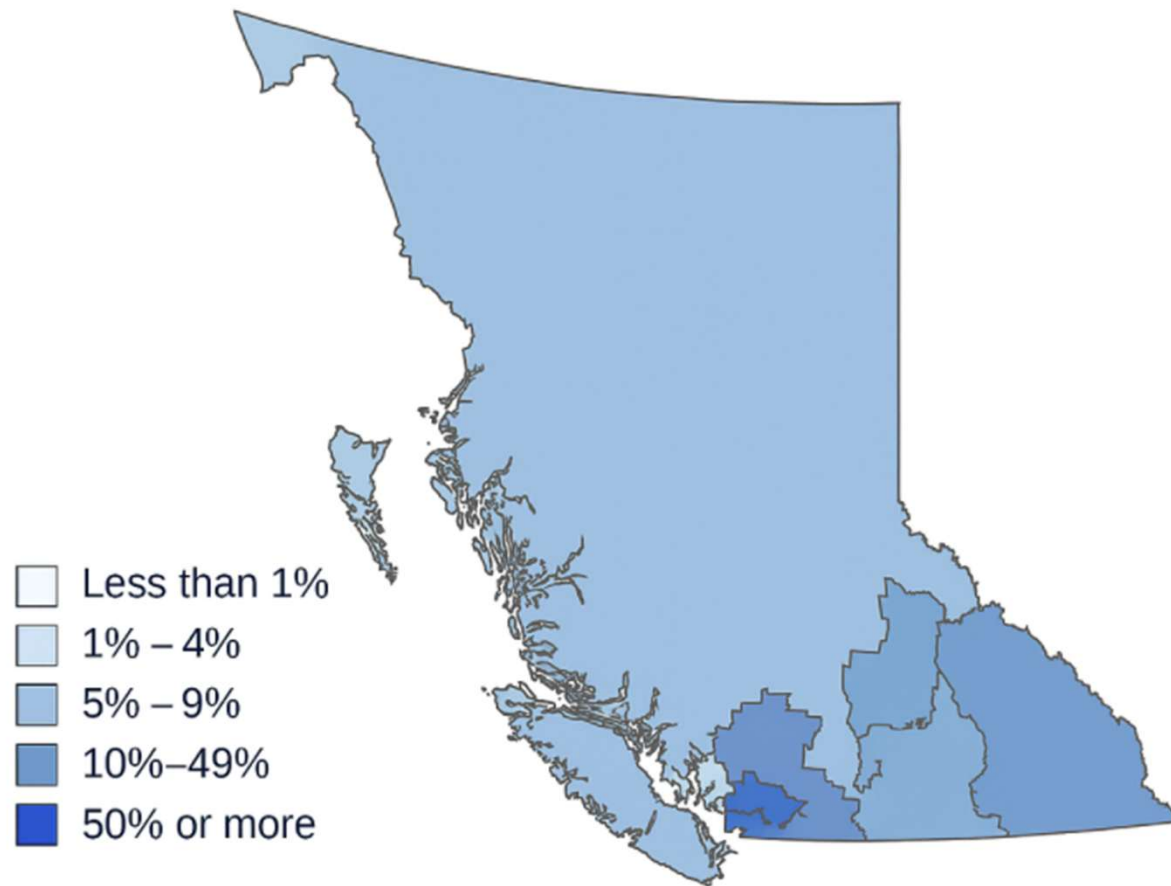
Native Range
of *O. mykiss*
in British
Columbia



Major Phylogenetic Groups of Steelhead

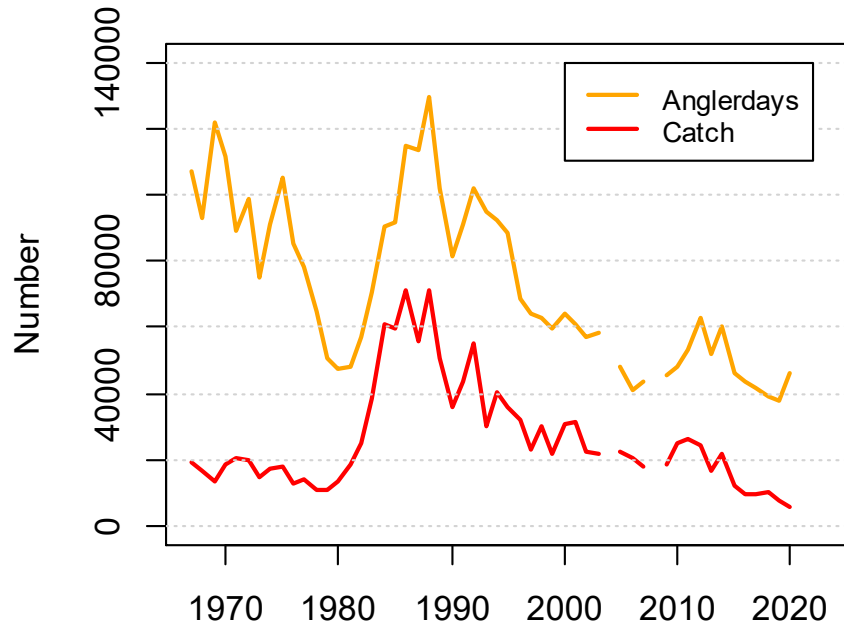




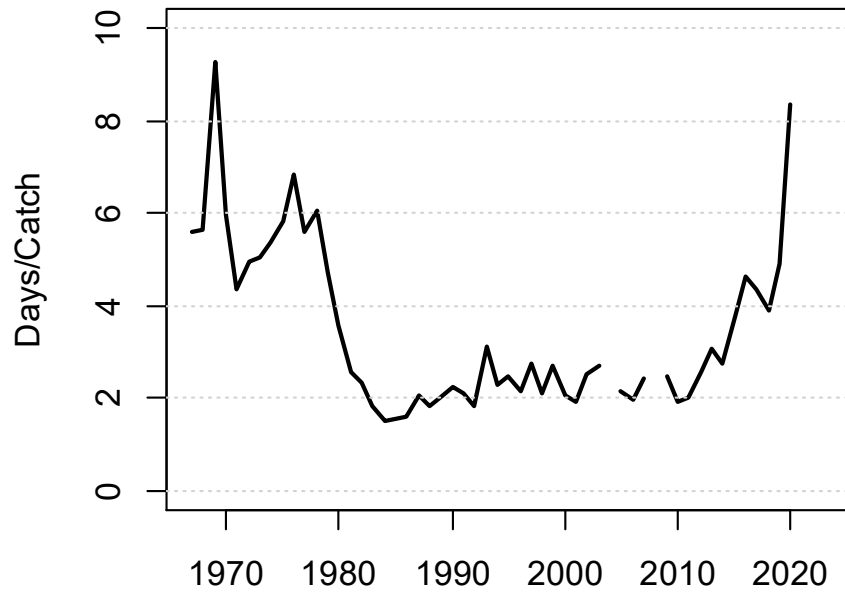


Southern British Columbia

Sport Catch and Anglerdays

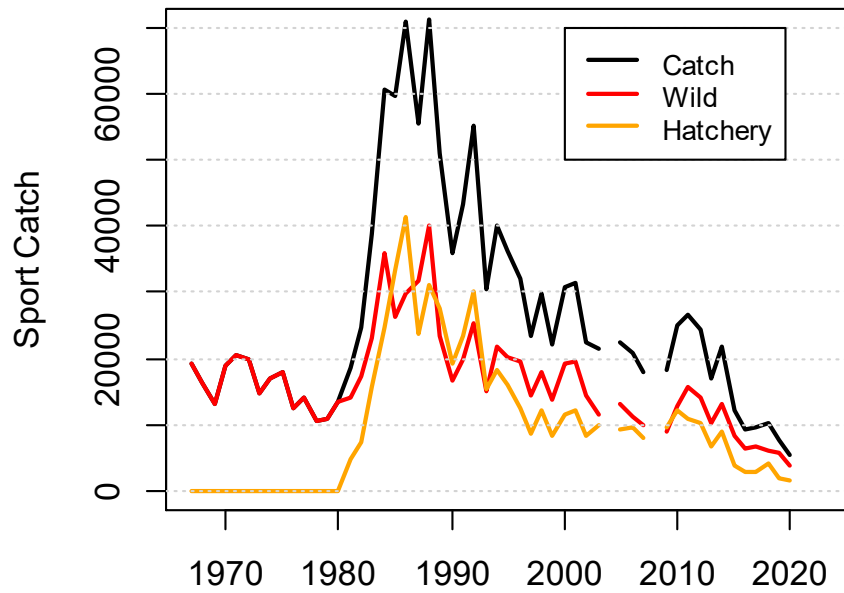


Effort per Catch

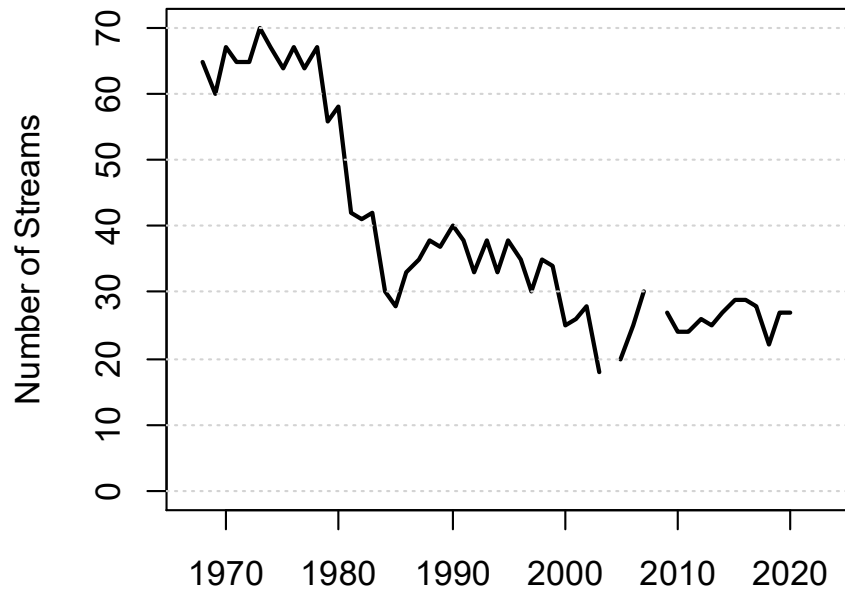


Southern British Columbia

Sport Catch



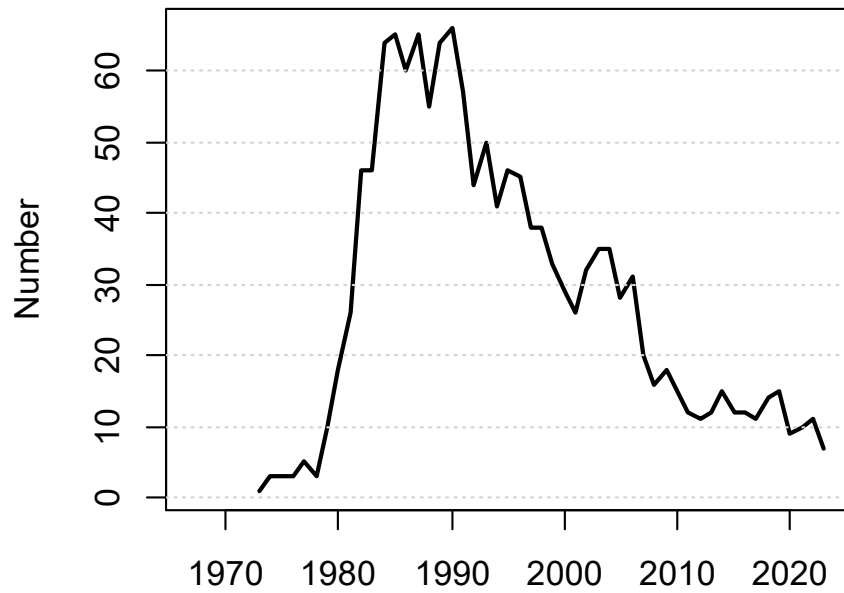
Streams Producing 95% of the Catch



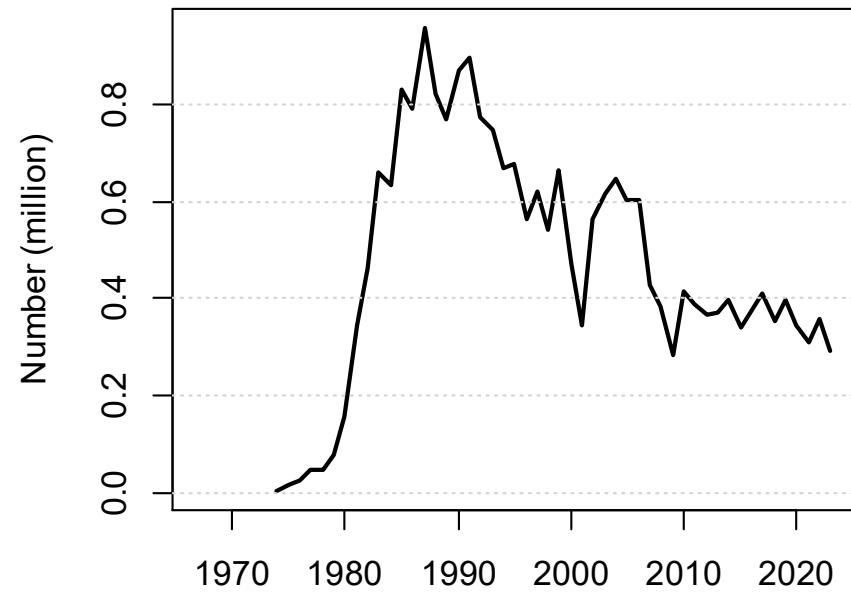
Note: Southern BC has about 220 Steelhead streams.

Southern British Columbia

Number of Streams Stocked



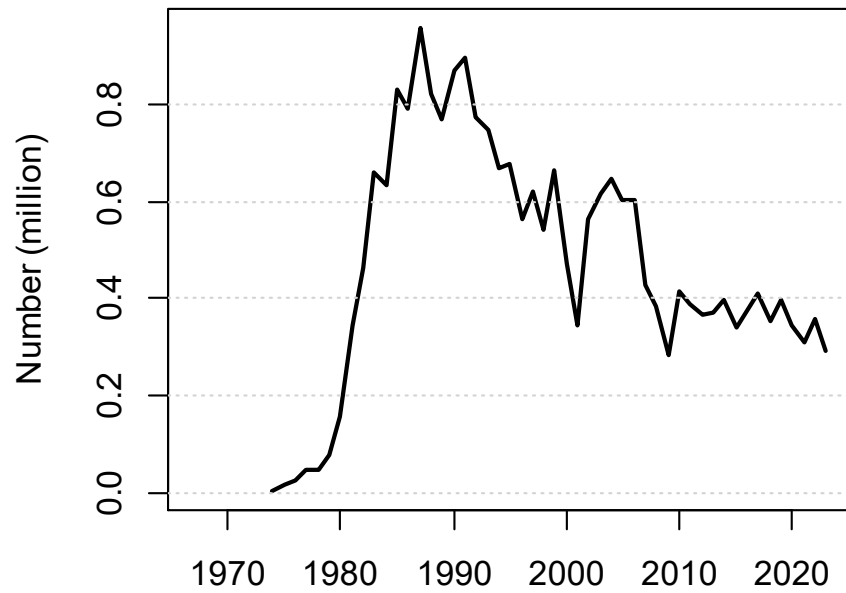
Smolts Stocked



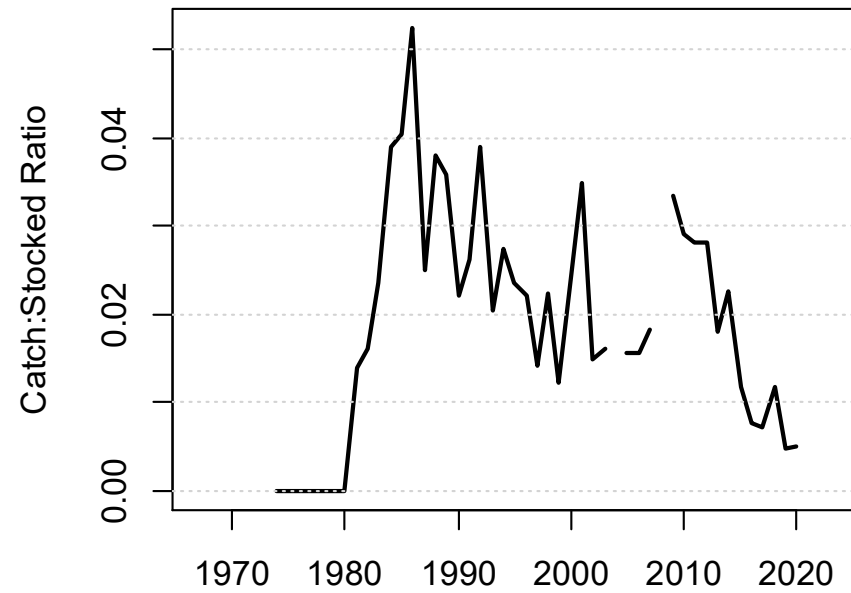
Note: Southern BC has about 220 Steelhead streams.

Southern British Columbia

Smolts Stocked



Hatchery Catch : Smolts Stocked



Winter Steelhead



Coastal Summers Steelhead

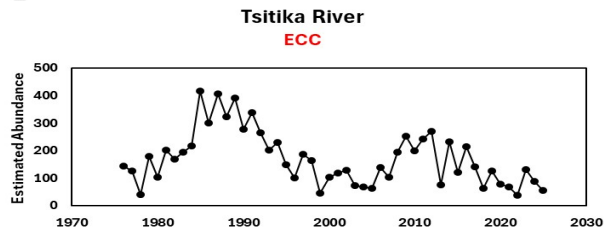
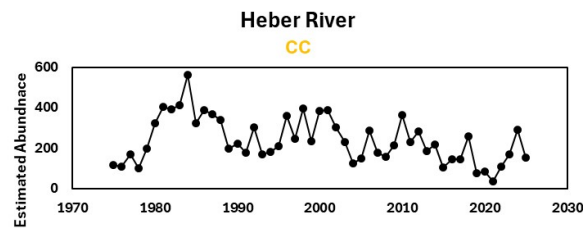
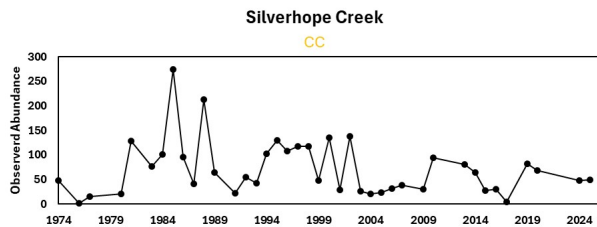
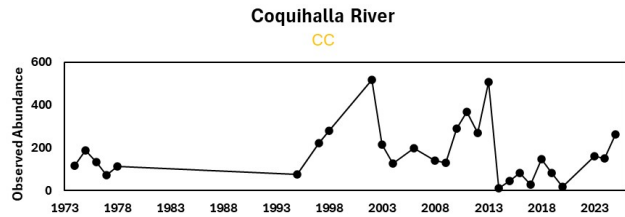


Interior Summer Steelhead

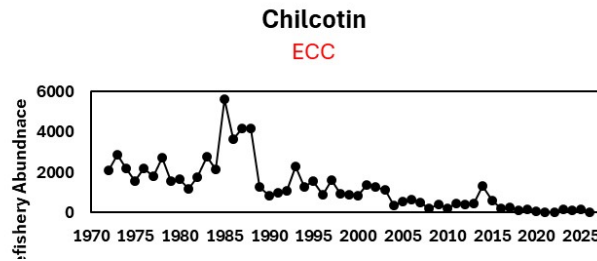
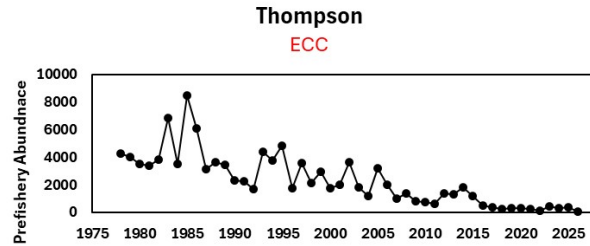


Southern British Columbia (224 populations)

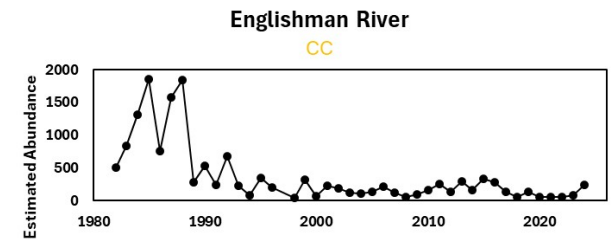
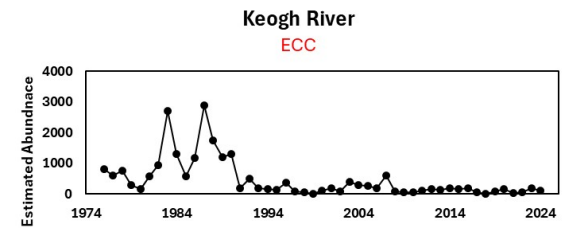
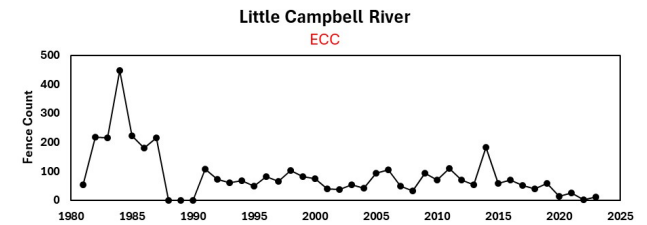
Coastal Summers (41)



Interior Summers (10)

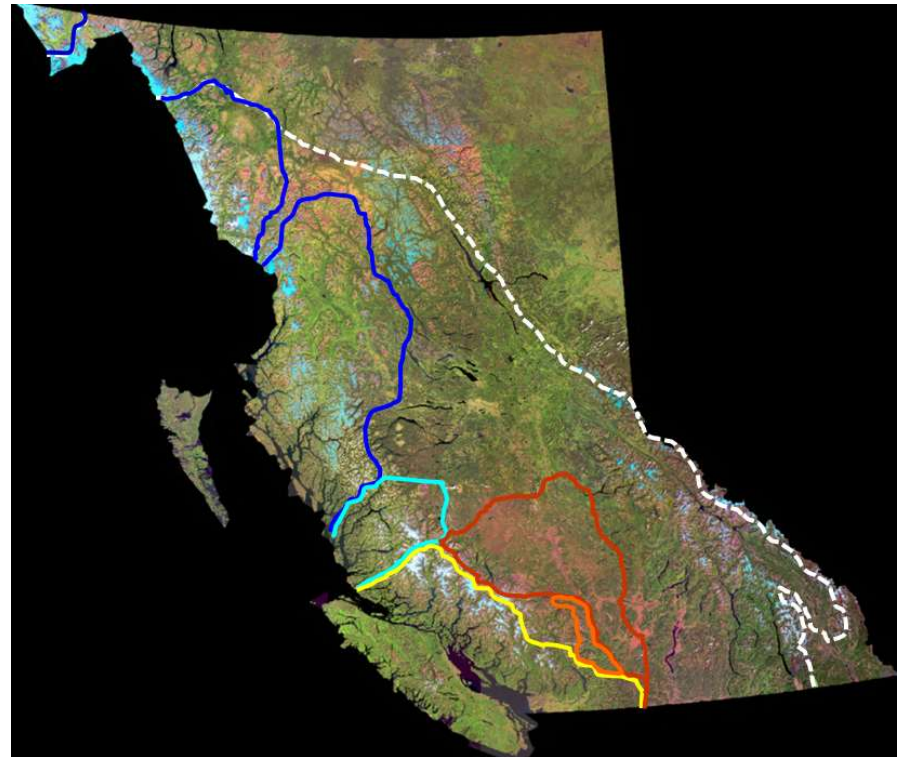


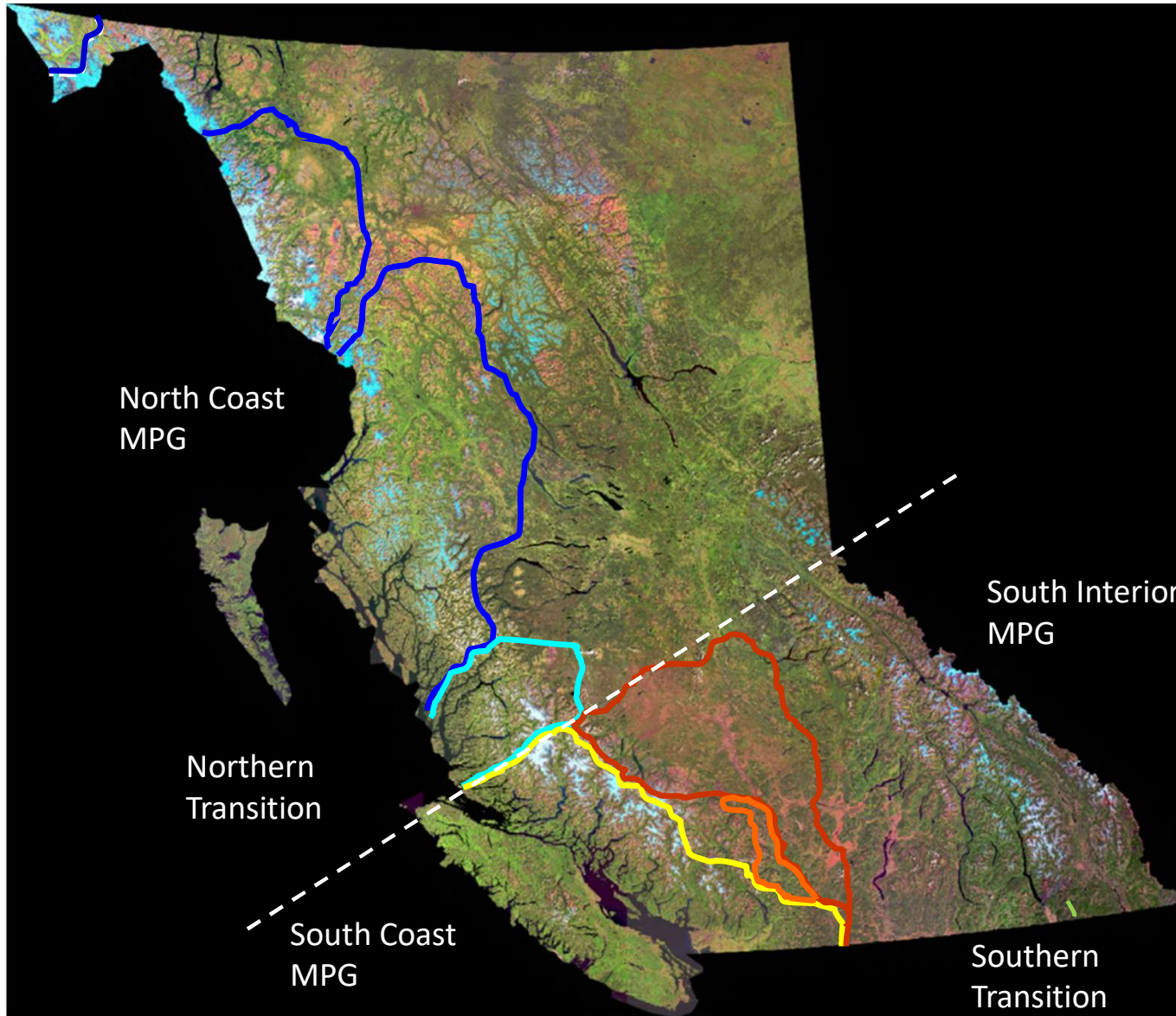
Winter Runs (173)



SARA (ESA) Listings

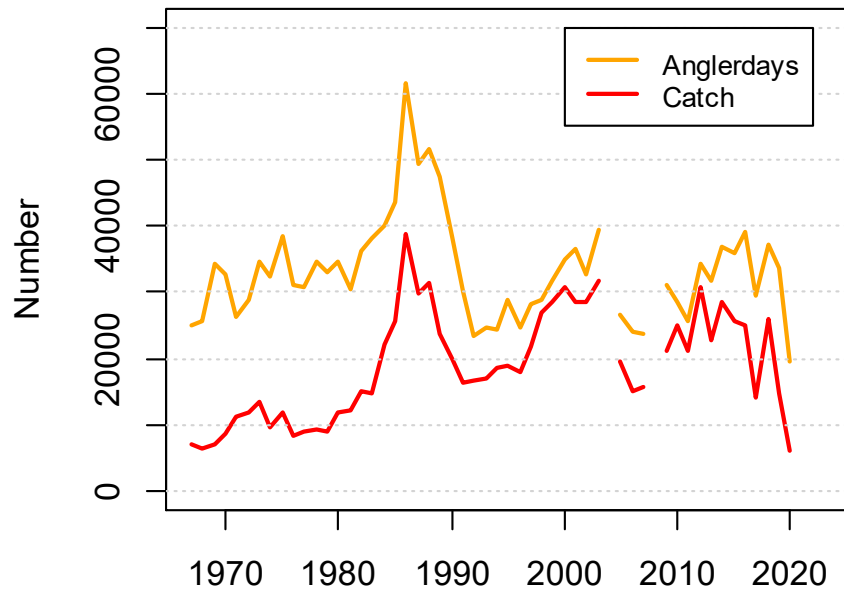
- Two DU's formally identified to date, Thompson DU and Chilcotin DU.
- Both classified as Endangered (twice)
 - Neither listed to date.



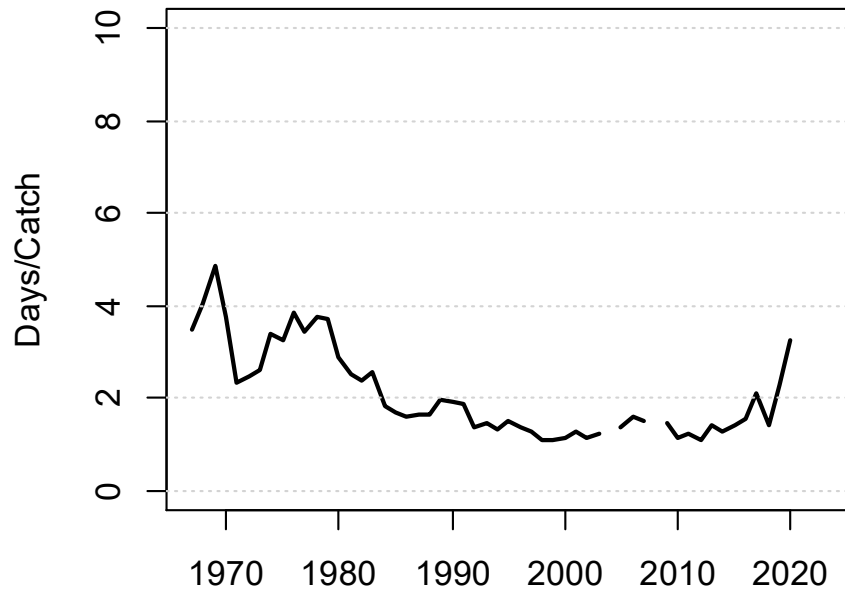


Northern British Columbia

Sport Catch and Anglerdays

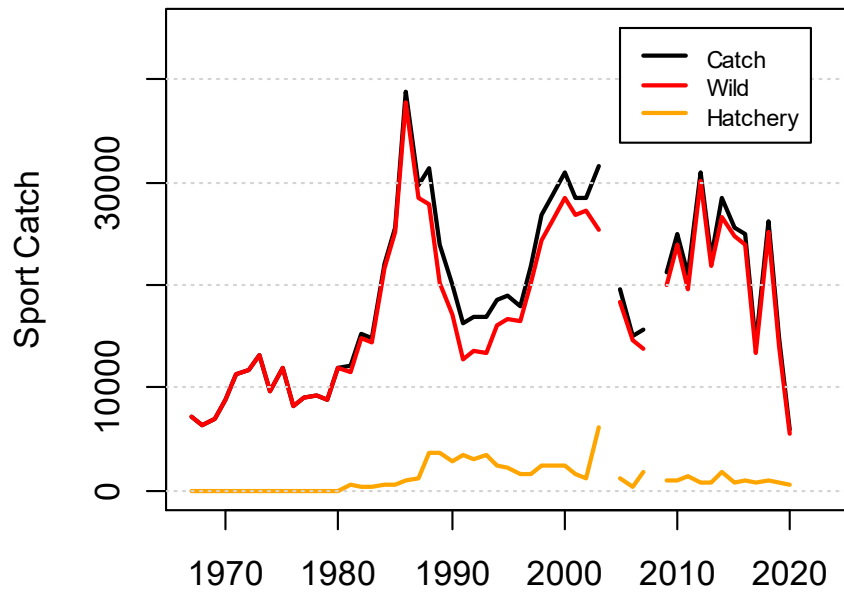


Effort per Catch

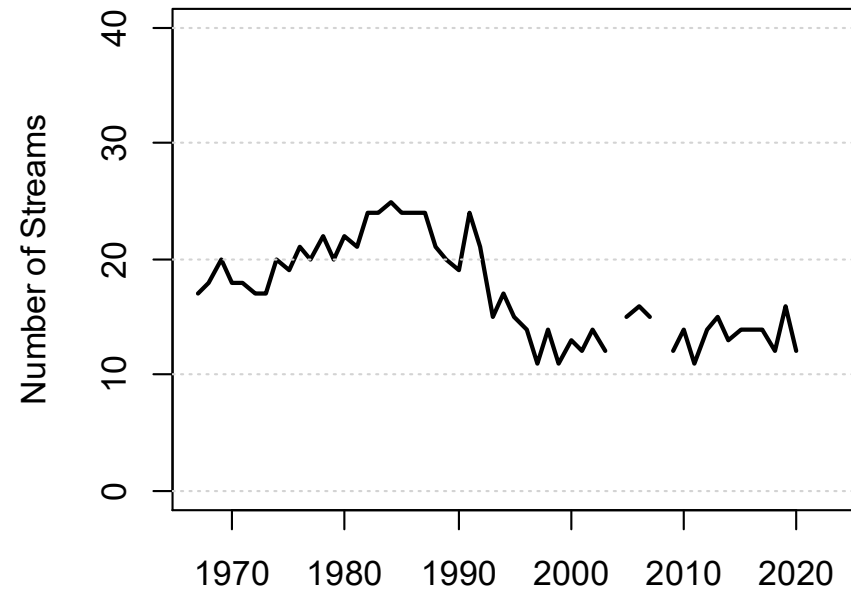


Northern British Columbia

Sport Catch



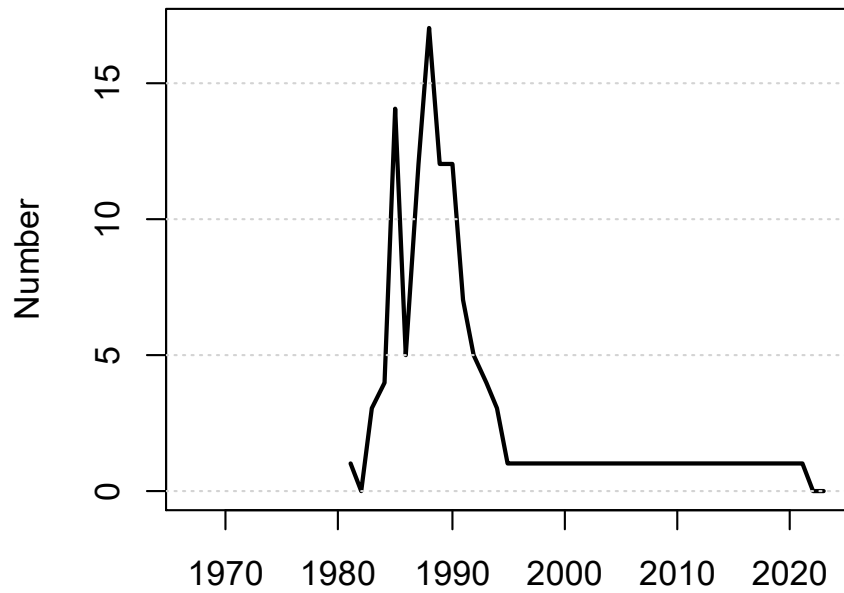
Streams Producing 95% of the Catch



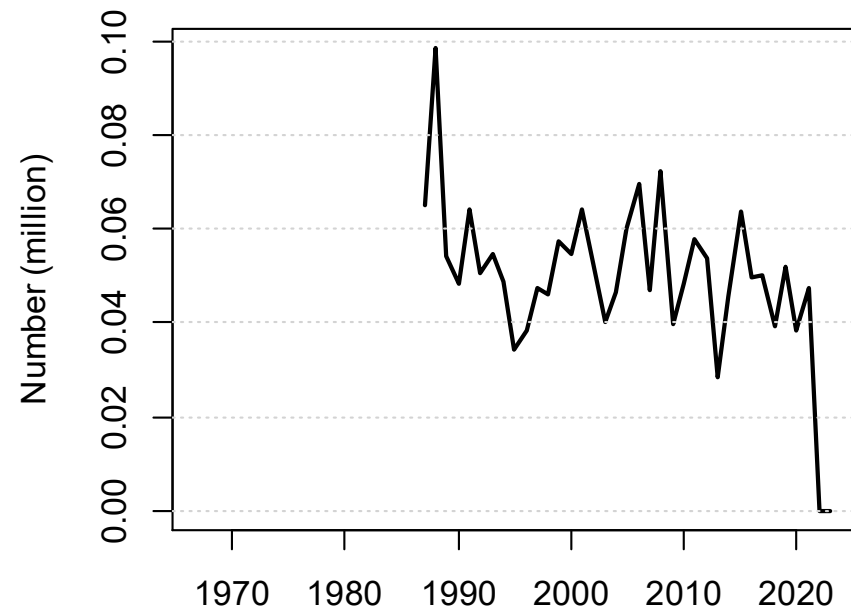
Northern BC has about 190 Steelhead streams.

Northern British Columbia

Number of Streams Stocked



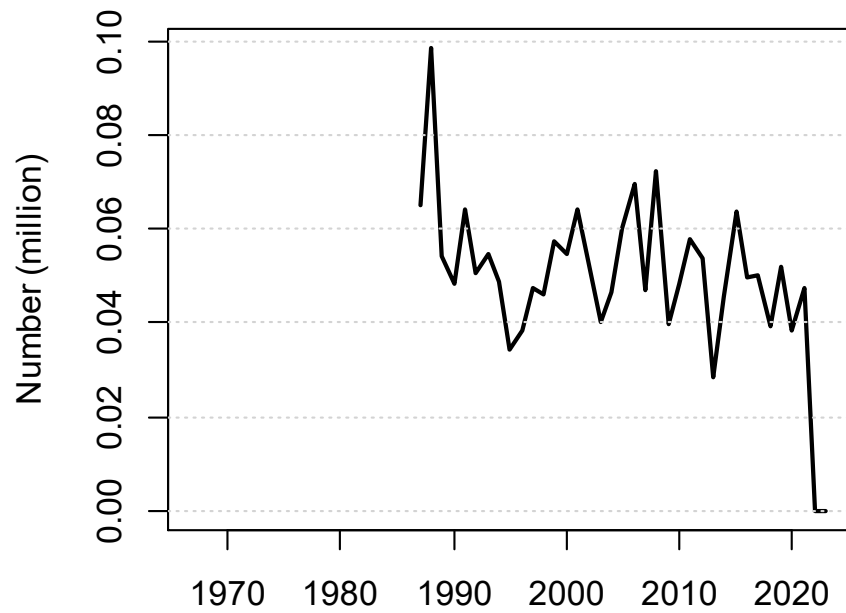
Smolts Stocked



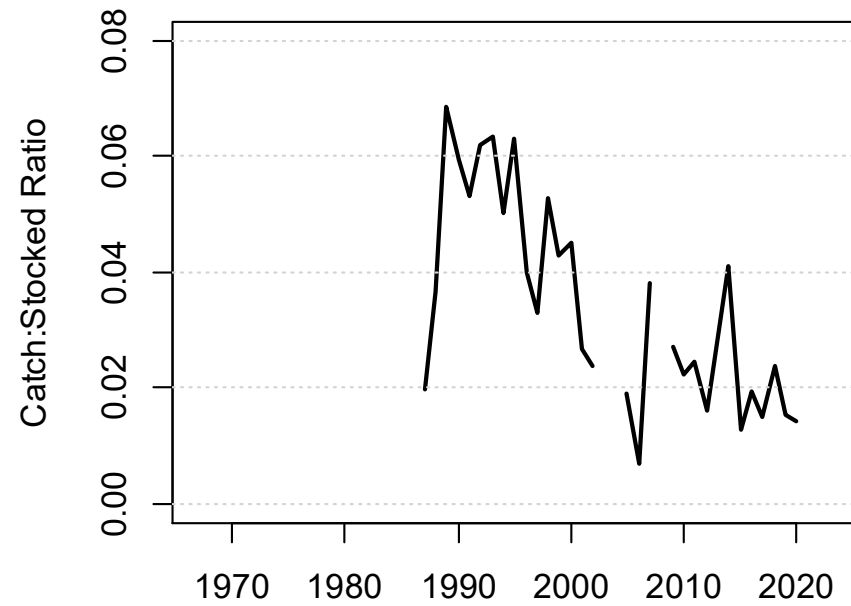
Northern BC has about 190 Steelhead streams.

Northern British Columbia

Smolts Stocked



Hatchery Catch : Smolts Stocked



Winter Steelhead



Coastal Summer Steelhead



Interior Summer Steelhead

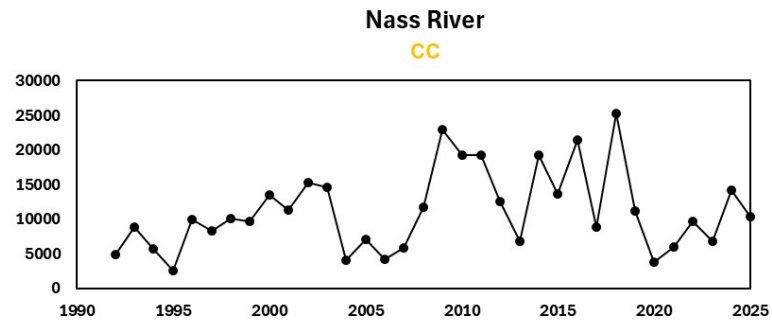
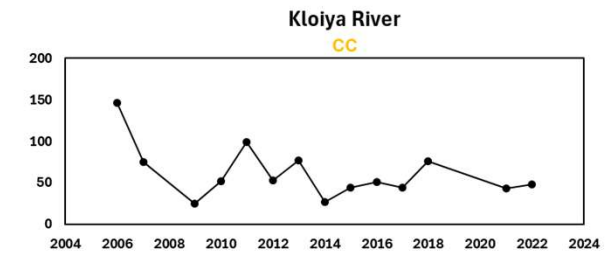
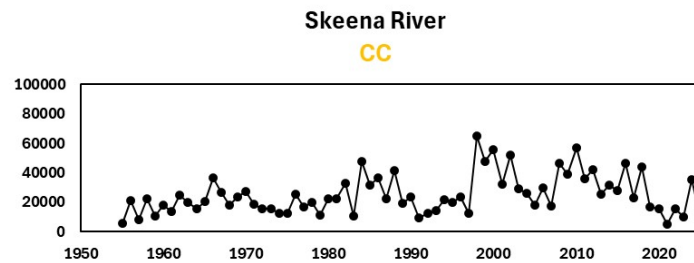
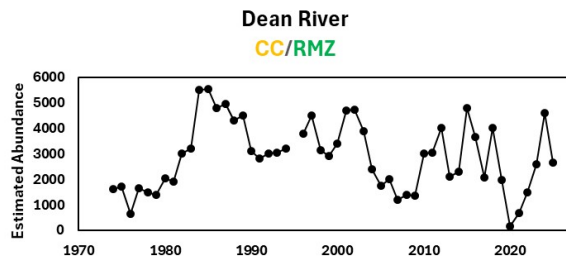


Northern British Columbia (195 populations)

Coastal Summers (6)

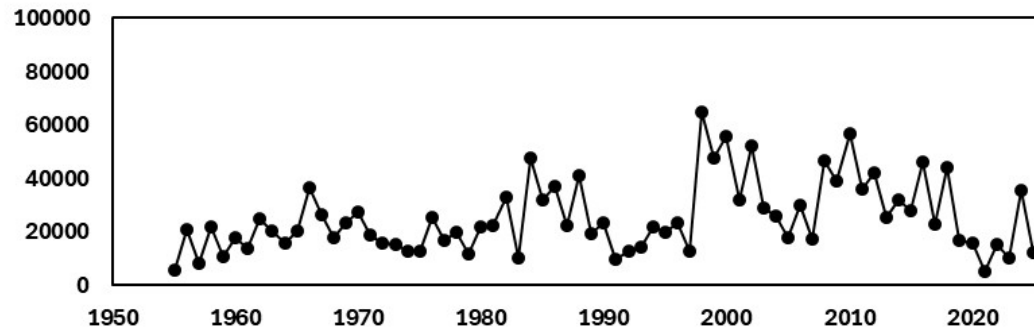
Interior Summers (45)

Winter Runs (144)

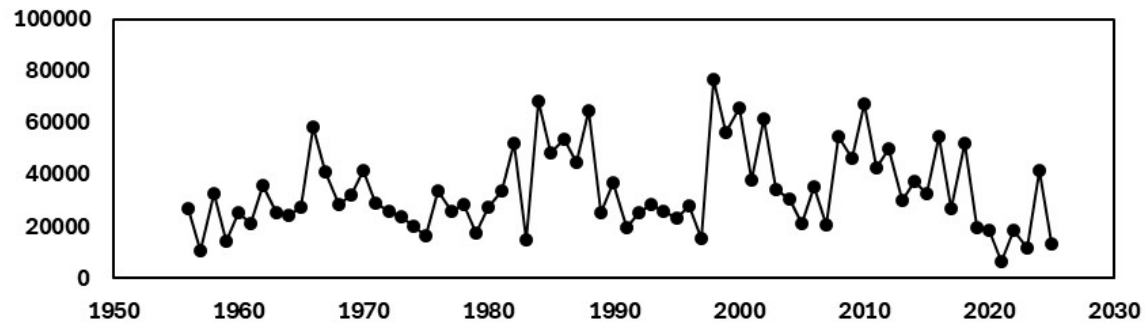


Skeena Interior Summer Run

Skeena @ Tye



Skeena @ Tye
Prefishery Abundance



Provincial Framework for Steelhead Management in British Columbia



Ministry of Forests, Lands, and
Natural Resource Operations
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Victoria, BC
April 2016

Extreme Conservation Concern Zone (ECC) – Rebuild stock to Conservation Concern (<10% carrying capacity)

- Minimize all significant sources of mortality including that associated with various fisheries. Fishing closures may be necessary where uncertainty is high, or absolute numbers are very low and even very low exploitation rates cannot be tolerated.

Conservation Concern Zone (CC) – Rebuild stock to Routine Management Zone within a defined time in the absence of harvest, or allow stock to remain in current zone for other socio-economic objectives (such as restricted fisheries, especially First Nation priority) (10-30% carrying capacity)

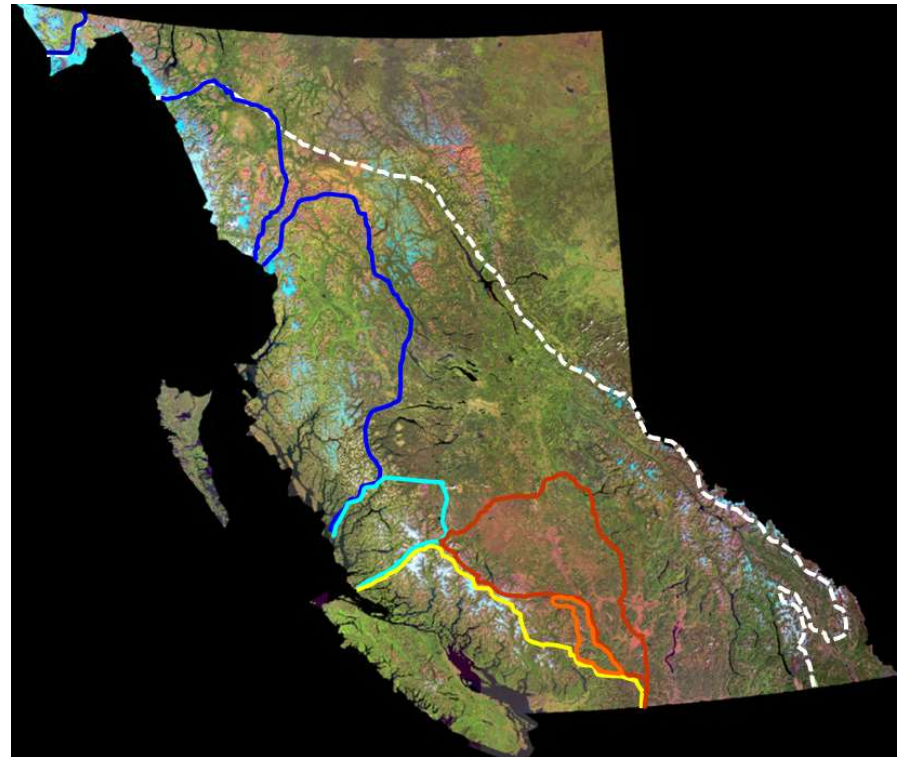
- In most cases, fishing closures are not expected but efforts to curtail exploitation rates will likely be undertaken.

Routine Management Zone (RM) – Provide a diversity of social, economic and cultural benefits while maintaining healthy stocks (>30% carrying capacity)

- Maximize angler opportunities to the extent possible although some limitations in terms of acceptable options will still be applied (reflecting stock and environmental characteristics, policy and well-established risks associated with certain activities).

Abundance Status Summary

Major Phylogenetic Group or Transition Group	Generalized Abundance Classification in 2024/25
North Coast MPG	Conservation Concern
Northern Transition	Conservation Concern or Routine Management
South Interior MPG	Extreme Conservation Concern
Southern Transition	Extreme Conservation Concern
South Coast MPG	Extreme Conservation Concern or Conservation Concern



Acknowledgements

- Province of BC

- Robert Bison
- Russell Bobrowski
- Trevor Davies
- Joe De Gisi
- Michael McCulloch
- Michael Lawerance
- Ron Ptolemy

